

Local Education Agency
Ad Hoc Workgroup Meeting
January 10, 2007 Meeting Summary

Location: Sacramento City Unified School District

ATTENDEES:

	Name	Organization/Title
1.	Liz Touhey	CDHS, Medi-Cal Benefits Branch
2.	Carol Massey-McCants	CDHS, Medi-Cal Benefits Branch
3.	John DiCecco	Los Angeles Unified School District (USD)
4.	Laura Baynham	Mendocino County Office of Education (COE)
5.	Cathy Bennett	Sacramento City USD
6.	Susan Bier	Konocti USD
7.	Margie Bobe	Los Angeles USD
8.	Sherry Purcell	Los Angeles USD
9.	Cynthia White-Piper	San Bernardino City USD
10.	Anysia Drumheller	Butte COE
11.	Barbara Miller	Fresno COE
12.	Carol Turner	Fresno USD
13.	Christine Mott	Fresno USD
14.	Sue Hamblin	Stanislaus COE
15.	Judy Holzapfel	Glenn COE
16.	Barbara Lewis-Mill	California Association of School Psychologists
17.	Kevin Harris	Navigant Consulting Inc.
18.	Marna Hammer	Navigant Consulting Inc.
19.	Gloria Eng	Navigant Consulting Inc.
20.	Marlana Evans	Navigant Consulting Inc.
21.	Kirsten Martens	Navigant Consulting Inc.

Handouts

Each participant received a folder with copies of the following: Agenda, Cost and Reimbursement Comparison Schedule (CRCS) training survey, the California Attorney General's opinion regarding the equivalency of State credentialing requirements for speech-language pathologists in comparison to federal requirements, Claims Processing Issues Matrix, and Navigant Consulting's PowerPoint presentation. In addition, copies of the Governor's Health Care Proposal were distributed.

Purpose

The meeting was convened by the CDHS in partnership with LAUSD. The purpose of the Workgroup is to improve the Local Educational Agency (LEA) Program. The emphasis of the meeting is to strategize various goals and activities aimed at enhancing the Medi-Cal services provided on school sites and access by students to these services, while increasing federal reimbursement to LEAs for the cost of providing these services.

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Attorney General Ruling on Speech Equivalency Update

The California Attorney General issued an opinion on November 30, 2006 stating that the California credentialing requirements for speech-language pathologists in Assembly Bill 2837 (AB 2837) and Education Code, Section 44265.3(a) are equivalent to the federal credentialing requirements. CDHS is currently working to get the State Plan Amendment (SPA) back on the clock with CMS and respond to CMS' request for additional information. Once the SPA is approved, speech-language pathologists with credentials, as defined in Education Code, Section 44265.3(a), will not require supervision in order to provide and bill for LEA services.

The Workgroup acknowledged Robert Powell from the California Speech Language Hearing Association for his efforts on AB 2837 and the Attorney General opinion.

Action:

What: Contact Robert Powell to discuss grandfathering in older credentialed speech-language pathologists.

Who: John DiCecco

When: Not Specified

CMS Retroactive Claims Adjustment Methodology Update

CDHS continues to work with CMS to finalize the claim adjustment methodology and reporting requirements for LEA claims submitted between the effective date and implementation date of SPA 03-024.

Update on Audits and Investigations Audit Findings

The Workgroup continues to face challenges when responding to Audits and Investigations (A&I) random audit requests. The Workgroup is planning to write a letter addressing some of the LEA findings in the Medi-Cal Payment Error Study completed by A&I, Medical Review Board. The Workgroup also requests that auditors be provided information and/or training to brief them on the differences between LEA providers and other inpatient/outpatient service providers.

Action:

What: Set up a meeting with A&I, John DiCecco, Laura Baynham, Cathy Bennett, Margie Bobe, and a representative from Fresno USD to discuss the random claims audits.

Who: John DiCecco and CDHS

Status: Once the letter is finalized, CDHS will schedule a meeting with A&I.

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Action:

What: Write a letter on behalf of the Workgroup to the Chief of A&I discussing specific A&I audit experiences and findings.

Who: John DiCecco and Laura Baynham

Status: The letter has been written and is being finalized.

Pay and Chase/Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) Conflicts Update

The Workgroup proposed that a formal discussion be conducted between certain providers and CDHS regarding Pay and Chase issues that are impacting LEAs. The Workgroup expressed that CDHS Third Party Liability (TPL) division and the California Department of Education (CDE) should be involved in the discussions as well.

Action:

What: Set up a meeting with TPL and LAUSD to discuss Pay and Chase issues.

Who: John DiCecco and CDHS

Status: CDHS will schedule a meeting with TPL following the review of the update letter John is writing to summarize the issues (including the recent resolution of the lawsuit filed against LAUSD and CDE) for TPL action resulting in the exhaustion of a student's lifetime insurance benefit.

Action:

What: Update letter regarding Pay and Chase issues and FAPE violations, and send to CDHS and CDE for policy clarification.

Who: Los Angeles USD – John DiCecco

When: Not Specified

Claims Processing Issues

CDHS and Navigant Consulting reviewed the Claims Processing Issues Matrix, which identified the resolved and outstanding claims processing issues. Sacramento City USD also identified a new issue not previously identified. CDHS requested RAD documentation and claim submission information to assist in resolving the claims processing issues. CDHS is working to set up a meeting with Payment Systems Division (PSD) and Electronic Data Systems (EDS) to address and resolve the outstanding issues, and discuss the Erroneous Payment Correction (EPC) process and timeline.

Action:

What: Provide CDHS with continued feedback of paid claims issues and errors.

Who: Workgroup

When: Ongoing

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Action:

What: Set up a meeting with PSD and EDS to discuss and resolve the outstanding claims processing issues.

Who: CDHS

Status: CDHS and NCI met with PSD/EDS on February 22nd.

Action:

What: Provide CDHS with claim submission information and RAD documentation to support claims processing issues.

Who: Workgroup

When: Ongoing

Provider Manual Update

Navigant Consulting updated the Workgroup on revisions to the Speech Therapy and Hearing sections of the LEA Provider Manual that were published in December. The referral requirements for speech therapy and audiology treatment services were updated and state that licensed speech-language pathologists and licensed audiologists may provide written referrals as long as the LEA develops and implements physician-based protocols. Additional revisions to these sections are necessary and will be incorporated in the February publication. Other upcoming revisions include updating the IEP/IFSP psychological assessment code (96100) to reflect the new CPT replacement code, 96101.

Regulations Update

Continued work on the regulations package, including discussions and collaboration with the Office of Regulations (OOR) are on-going. The proposed regulations package will update State regulations to reflect the new program changes as a result of SPA 03-024. A summary of proposed regulation changes and milestones of the regulations process were discussed with the Workgroup.

Action:

What: Discuss with Los Angeles USD's legal office the language in Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 14132.06(j).

Who: John DiCecco

When: Not Specified

CRCS Update

CDHS and Navigant Consulting have worked with the OOR and the Forms Management Unit to create more user-friendly CRCS worksheets. In an effort to make the worksheets more streamlined, the instructions, which were previously a separate document, are now incorporated within each worksheet. Upon finalization of the forms,

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updated CRCS forms and additional information to assist LEAs in completing the CRCS will be available via the LEA Program website.

In order to gauge the need for additional CRCS training and support, a CRCS survey has been posted on the LEA Program website. The Workgroup suggested that MAA trainings or the California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO) would be a good way to disseminate the information regarding the CRCS survey to LEAs.

Future Workgroup Meeting

The next Workgroup meeting for CDHS and providers will be held in Sacramento on March 7, 2007.